

Message Text

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22

ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 FBO-02 /014 W

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R 081218Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7842

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 3394

FOR AF/EX FROM AMBASSADOR

OUAGADOUGOU FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, GH, IC

SUBJ: WATTS

REF: (A) ACCRA 2596, (B) STATE 77669, (C) STATE 73934

1. I HAD BEEN GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER USHER FRIDAY, APRIL 9 BUT WAS SUDDENLY INFORMED THIS MORNING THAT HE WOULD SEE ME TODAY AT 10:45 A.M. BECAUSE HE WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN STARTING TOMORROW MORNING FOR THE WEEKEND. PURPOSE OF APPOINTMENT WAS TO PRESENT AIDE-MEMOIRE AND DETAILED ATTACHMENT REQUESTING GOIC APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISHMENT WATTS STATION IN IVORY COAST.

2. TOO LATE FOR US TO CONTACT WASHINGTON, REFTEL A ARRIVED FROM ACCRA.

3. I THEREFORE DECIDED TO GO THROUGH WITH PRESENTATION OF AIDE-MEMOIRE BUT TO INDICATE THAT WE WERE ALSO APPROACHING GOVERNMENT OF GHANA FOR SAME PURPOSE. I WAS AFRAID THAT IF WE POSTPONED PRESENTATION TO USHER UNTIL WE HAD FURTHER WORD FROM GHANA, IT WOULD BE TOO LATE FOR HIM TO DISCUSS

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MATTER WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WHO IS LEAVING

COUNTRY ON OR ABOUT APRIL 20 FOR ABOUT A MONTH. THIS
WOULD HAVE PUT OFF DECISION IN PRINCIPLE AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, USHER WILL ALSO BE CONSULTING TECHNICAL
MINISTRIES FOR ADVICE ON THIS MATTER.

4. USHER RECEIVED PROPOSAL WITH INTEREST AND PROMISED TO
GET IN TOUCH WITH TECHNICAL MINISTRIES AND LET ME KNOW THEIR
REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL. HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY
"DIPLOMATIC HESITATION" CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WATTS
IN IVORY COAST.

5. I DID ASSURE USHER THAT IF WE HAD FURTHER WORD ABOUT
PROPOSAL IN GHANA, I WOULD LET HIM KNOW IMMEDIATELY. SMITH

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